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Hoylake, Neston and Wirral

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

J. HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

For the Year 1947

Report of
Medical Officer of Health
for 1947

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INTRODUCTION.

The advent of the National Health Service Act, 1946, will not, it seems, make any serious change in the relationship between Urban Authorities and their Medical Officers, and when the Act comes into force it will be the duty still of the Medical Officer to submit an annual report similar in construction to this one for the information and guidance of his Councils.

The report submitted for the year 1947 contains statistics and other material for comparison with other areas or with the country as a whole. It includes as well suggestions and recommendations in appropriate places which may point the way to improvement of the Health Services in the future.

The three Urban Districts which are considered in the report are similar in character, as they are situated beside the estuary of the River Dee, grouped about nuclei constituted by old village settlements. The inhabitants find employment in the neighbouring Merseyside industrial areas, though fishing is still pursued by some, and other local industries are laundering, printing, woodworking, brickmaking, and the manufacture of artificial teeth.

The population of the combined area is estimated at 52,178, occupying a space of 20,069 acres, a density of some 2.6 persons per acre.

The National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the introductory paragraphs of the Report for 1946, the place of public health administration in the social history of the past 100 years was described, and mention was made of the progress in legislation which has brought us to the National Health Service Act, 1946. This Act seeks to provide a comprehensive health and medical service for all. The services which are of interest to local authorities are those contained in Part III of the Act. Urban District Councils will retain their present functions as Local Sanitary Authorities, and with minor changes will continue to regulate environmental hygiene as at present. Under Part III of the Act the Cheshire County Council will become the Local Health Authority, which is something quite different, and they will administer the following services in Urban Districts such as these :—

Health Centres.

Care of mothers and young children.

Midwifery.

Health visiting.

Home nursing.
 Vaccination and immunisation.
 Ambulance services.
 Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
 Domestic help.
 Mental health.

A scheme for the administration of these services has been drawn up and this awaits confirmation. It provides for the delegation of certain duties and responsibilities under these headings by the County Council. In this area it is proposed that a Deeside Division shall be constituted by these three Urban Districts, and that this Division shall be administered by a Divisional Health Committee consisting to a great extent of members nominated by the Urban District Councils. The Medical Officer of Health is to be appointed Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, under the County Medical Officer, for the whole area, so that the Local Authority's health and sanitary services, both personal and environmental, will be co-ordinated as a result of this joint appointment. Difficulties may appear during the early application of the scheme, but it would be a mistake to exaggerate this possibility now, and with a little experience there is no doubt that the scheme will work well.

Food and Drink Infection.

The problem of food and drink infections is one which is increasing in importance with the change in the eating habits of the people for, as a result of the development of school meals, industrial canteens, and rationing, many more persons take meals away from home than formerly did so.

It is estimated that food and drink infections kill 5,000 people in this country each year. These infections are nearly all bacterial in origin, and with the knowledge which we have of the identity and cultural habits of the bacteria concerned, most of these deaths could be avoided. The difficulty is the application of the knowledge which we possess, and this is caused to a great extent by indifference or ignorance on the part of the public. Of the deaths which occur, some 1,500 to 2,000 are due to bovine tuberculosis, 3,600 to infantile diarrhoea or enteritis, and between 200 and 400 to dysentery and typhoid fever. Besides these fatal cases there have been outbreaks of food poisoning which cause great sickness and financial loss, and these appear to have been more numerous in recent years.

With regard to bovine tuberculosis, there can be no doubt that the ideal method of preventing human infection is by securing a pure milk supply free from tubercle bacilli and produced by cattle which are entirely free from the disease. This is beset with difficulty and would present a serious economic and financial problem. Nevertheless it should be the long term plan, but meanwhile it is important to realise that a surprisingly high percentage of raw milk is found on examination to contain living tubercle bacilli. It is alarming to hear that at least one in twenty farms is sending out milk infected with virulent tuberculosis germs. As much of this milk is neither pasteurised by the distributor nor boiled by the consumer, it is not surprising that we have so many deaths each year from bovine tuberculosis. Surely this is a continued loss of young lives which should be ended at the earliest moment by a compulsory system of pasteurisation such as has been employed in North America with such outstanding success. Is it going too far to suggest that we should accept the same responsibility for making the milk supply safe as we have done for so many years in ensuring a pure and safe water supply?

The problem of the infant mortality from infantile diarrhoea is bound up with the methods of infant feeding which are in use at present. 90% of these fatal cases occur in infants who are bottle fed. It is therefore our duty to do everything possible to convince mothers, particularly the younger mothers, of the value of natural feeding. From every point of view it is superior to artificial feeding, and it is a misfortune that more than half of the infants over the age of one month are artificially fed.

In the case of the dysentery and typhoid groups of diseases, the personal hygiene of the workers in the food and drink trade is the most important factor. The infection in these diseases is present in the excretions of the patient, and, perhaps more important, in those of the apparently healthy carrier, and it is transferred to food by contaminated fingers. We must bring home to all who prepare or work among food the necessity for taking the simple precaution of washing the hands after using the toilet. Many outbreaks and deaths have been the result of neglecting this elementary matter. Another important consideration is that facilities for the adequate washing of the hands should be available, and conveniently so.

Poliomyelitis.

The year 1947 was noteworthy for the epidemic of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis as it is sometimes named, which occurred in this country. Hitherto, with possibly the exception of 1938, poliomyelitis has not assumed such proportions here as would give cause for serious alarm, and although each year between 400 and 1,000

cases of poliomyelitis have been notified in the United Kingdom, there has rarely been anything which could be termed an epidemic. During 1947, however, there were 9,200 notifications of the disease, and when these have been corrected we shall find that something in the order of 7,500 to 7,600 cases actually occurred, resulting in 760 deaths. This therefore marks the first epidemic of the disease which has been experienced by the United Kingdom.

Poliomyelitis is an infection which has only recently taken to epidemic behaviour. Although odd cases have occurred through the ages, it was not until about 1870 that the disease began to occur in the form of epidemics. Since then various outbreaks have been recorded. First came that in Scandinavia in 1905, followed a few years later by a severe epidemic in Sweden, and in 1916 by a heavy outbreak in the United States. More recently Norway (1941) and Switzerland (1944) have been invaded.

So far the disease has baffled all efforts to control it, and though an enormous amount of research has been pursued in many countries of the world, nothing has so far been discovered which will throw any light on the way in which the infection spreads. The causal agent is obscure, but it is believed to be a virus which attacks certain parts of the central nervous system, and having damaged or destroyed nerve tissue there, causes weakness or paralysis of the muscles which are associated with the damaged areas.

The epidemic of 1947 followed the pattern of those which had occurred in other countries of western civilisation. Our experience showed that most of the cases occurred in children between the ages of 5 and 15, but that the incidence was also relatively heavy in the higher age groups. The greater severity of the disease in the higher age groups was a feature of the outbreak.

There is no evidence that any of the means of control and prevention which were employed made any difference to the spread of the disease, indeed there is every indication that they were quite useless.

These Urban Districts escaped lightly. Two cases were notified in Hoylake, six cases in Wirral and two cases in Neston. Of these patients one died, and of the others two have made a complete recovery, four are expected to do so, and in the case of the other three full recovery seems unlikely.

HOYLAKE URBAN DISTRICT.

The Urban District was constituted in 1889; and on 1st April, 1933, the Parishes of Caldy, Frankby, Greasby, Grange and part of Saughall Massie were added.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	5,933
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1947)	26,280
Number of inhabited houses	7,495
Rateable Value	£282,487
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,150

The area is residential and agricultural. Fishing is still pursued by Hoylake men, and other occupations are laundry and domestic work, wood-working, printing and brickmaking.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1939—1947 in Hoylake :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.
1939	23,400	4 more deaths than births —0.2
1940	26,290	15 more deaths than births —0.6
1941	28,580	63 more deaths than births —2.2
1942	28,080	77 more births than deaths +2.7
1943	26,340	25 more births than deaths +0.9
1944	25,100	107 more births than deaths +4.3
1945	24,770	10 more births than deaths +0.4
1946	26,080	51 more births than deaths +1.9
1947	26,280	20 more births than deaths +0.8

Extracts from vital statistics for the year 1947.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 26,280, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	400	208	192
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	17	6	11
Totals	....	....	....	....	417	214	203

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	....	....	15.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	....	20.5
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	....	....	22.2

Stillbirths.					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	13	6	7
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	1	—	1
Totals	....	....	....	....	14	6	8

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	....	....	32.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	....	....	24.0

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	397	182	215
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	....	....	15.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	....	12.0
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	....	....	11.9

The Registrar-General has not supplied a Comparability Factor since 1940, because the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors have been suspended for the present.

The absence of a Comparability Factor precludes a comparison between the former two rates.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil	—
Other maternal causes	1	2.3

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	20	11	9
Illegitimate	3	2	1
Totals	23	13	10
All infants per 1,000 live births....	55.2		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50.0		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	176.5		
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	41.0		
Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)....	36.0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	59		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5		

Number of Deaths during Years 1939—1947.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1939	320	13.1
1940	336	12.8
1941	388	13.6
1942	318	11.3
1943	367	13.9
1944	324	12.9
1945	323	13.0
1946	347	13.3
1947	397	15.1

Deaths at Various Ages During 1947.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	23
1 year and under 2	1
2 years and under 5	2
5 years and under 15	1
15 years and under 25	2
25 years and under 35	8
35 years and under 45	17
45 years and under 55	25
55 years and under 65	53
65 years and under 75	105
75 years and under 85	124
85 years and over	36
Total	397

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1939—1947.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):—

Year	Hoylake	England and Wales
1939	25.2	50
1940	24.7	55
1941	48.1	59
1942	35.4	49
1943	38.3	49
1944	25.5	46
1945	30.0	46
1946	40.2	43
1947	55.2	41

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 36 in 1947.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	5
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	5
Violent Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Total	6	4	1	1	3	3	4	1	23

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	9	15
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	3	—	3
9. Influenza	1	1	2
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	1	5	6
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
15. Cancer of breast	—	9	9
16. Cancer of all other sites	19	20	39
17. Diabetes	—	7	7
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	16	30	46
19. Heart disease	67	71	138
20. Other diseases of circulatory system....	7	6	13
21. Bronchitis	6	6	12
22. Pneumonia	10	6	16
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	2	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	3	5
26. Appendicitis	—	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	3	6	9
28. Nephritis	4	7	11
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis....	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1
31. Premature birth	2	1	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	5	2	7
33. Suicide	—	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	1	2	3
35. Other violent causes	4	4	8
36. All other causes	16	13	29
TOTALS	182	215	397

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
						Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate		Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales
1939	23,400	316	13.5	15.0	267	13	66	8	25.2	50	320	13.1	12.1	12.1	— 4
1940	26,290	321	12.2	14.6	298	37	75	8	24.7	55	336	12.8	10.9	14.3	— 15
1941	28,580	325	11.0	14.2	343	52	97	16	48.1	59	388	13.6		12.9	— 63
1942	28,080	395	14.0	15.8	262	33	89	14	35.4	49	318	11.3		11.6	+ 77
1943	26,340	392	14.8	16.5	302	44	109	15	38.3	49	367	13.9		12.1	+ 25
1944	25,100	431	17.2	17.6	268	27	83	11	25.5	46	324	12.9		11.6	+ 107
1945	24,770	333	13.4	16.1	280	37	80	10	30.0	46	323	13.0		11.4	+ 10
1946	26,080	398	15.3	19.1	283	38	102	16	40.2	43	347	13.3		11.5	+ 51
1947	26,280	417	15.9	20.5	331	33	99	23	55.2	41	397	15.1		12.0	+ 20

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

A private laboratory is employed for the routine examination of clinical material and for the investigation of disease.

Food and Drugs throughout the District are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Water supplies and swimming baths are investigated for the Council by the Counties Public Health Laboratories and the University of Liverpool.

The Municipal Laboratories at Birkenhead are employed for the examination of milk and ice cream samples.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council have made an arrangement with the Wirral Urban District Council for a joint service to cover the area which is administered by both Authorities. A modern Armstrong Siddeley ambulance has been provided by the Wirral Urban District Council and a further new ambulance was ordered by the Hoylake Urban District Council in April, 1946. The Civil Defence vehicle which was formerly in service in Hoylake is now used for mortuary purposes.

The service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake (*telephone—Hoylake 2970*), and an accident and sickness removal service is maintained as far as is possible with the limited equipment available.

The ambulance calls for the year were as follows :—

Illness	Accidents	Maternity	Deaths
316	66	12	26

The cost of the service for the year ending 31st March, 1947, is stated below :—

						£	s.	d.
Expenditure	....	....	....	....	....	889	19	11
Income	....	....	....	....	....	471	5	11
Rate Charge—Hoylake U.D.	....	....	....	....	....	279	16	2
„ „ —Wirral U.D.	....	....	....	....	....	138	17	10

The authorities at the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, undertake the transport of accident, sick and maternity cases to the Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board are responsible for the removal of infectious cases.

The ambulances of the Merseyside Hospitals Council are available for the service of subscribers in this area.

Nursing in the Home.

This Service is undertaken by the Hoylake and West Kirby District Nursing Association, which provides trained nurses for work about the district. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered serve to support the organisation. The work of the Association is much appreciated by residents of the district.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is conducted at 8, Market Street, Hoylake, on the first Friday of each month at 3-15 p.m., and additional clinics are arranged when required.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

Maternity and Child Welfare.	Each Month	Time
Hoylake—8, Market Street	Every Thursday	1-30 p.m.

Child Welfare.

West Kirby—Parish Hall, West-bourne Road	1st and 3rd Fridays	2-0 p.m.
Greasby—Wesleyan School Room	Alternate Wednesdays	2-15 p.m.

School Clinic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	Daily (except Sat. and Sun.)	9-0 a.m. to 10-0 a.m.
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(School Medical Officer attends every Friday at 10 a.m.)

Dental Clinic.

	Each Month	Time
Hoylake—8, Market Street	 Arranged as required	

Eye Clinic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	 3rd Monday, when required	1-0 p.m.
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Orthopaedic Clinic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	 Last Friday	.. 2-0 p.m.
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Massage Clinic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	 Wednesday	 1-30 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.
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Tuberculosis Dispensary.

42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead	Every Tuesday and Friday	2-0 p.m.
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Venereal Diseases.

Birkenhead General Hospital	 Monday, Wednesday and Friday	5-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
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Males.**Females.**

Tuesday		 5-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday		2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

A new Child Welfare Clinic was opened at the Parish Hall, Westbourne Road, West Kirby, in November, 1947.

Hospitals.**Voluntary.**

The Hoylake and West Kirby Cottage Hospital provides accommodation for 36 patients. It is staffed by the Practitioners of the District and by visiting Consultants. It is equipped for major surgical work and has a new X-ray Department. The Ministry of Health Hospital Survey of the Hospital Services of the North West Area mentions this hospital in very favourable terms.

The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, provides a number of beds for the emergency treatment of sick children from this locality. This institution has excellent equipment and is staffed by visiting Practitioners and Consultants. It is provided with a steam disinfecter.

The Voluntary Hospitals in Liverpool and Birkenhead admit patients from this District.

Public.

Isolation Hospital. The Hoylake Urban District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board. The Board's Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge has accommodation for 100 patients. The Hospital has modern cubicle wards and a new nurses' home was constructed in 1937. Infectious patients from this area are treated in the hospital where necessary, and under certain conditions beds may be available for measles and whooping cough cases. At Pensby there is a hospital with 12 beds for convalescent scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox Hospital. The Wirral Joint Hospital Board have an arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority for the admission of smallpox patients to the Smallpox Hospital at New Ferry.

General. The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge has been extended and modernised during recent years, and now offers comprehensive services for the investigation and treatment of sickness to residents of this District. The Hospital contains 430 beds, including 34 beds in the Maternity Block, and the hospital has a large staff of resident practitioners and visiting consultants.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Carr Lane, Hoylake. Certain improvements which might serve the convenience of those responsible for conducting post mortem examinations need consideration, but these must necessarily be deferred for the present.

Legislation in Force.

The following is a list of the Local Acts of Parliament, Provisional and other Orders, and Adoptive Acts in force in the District :—

Private Acts.

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Act, 1897 | .... | 1897 |
| 2. | Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Act, 1900 | .... | 1900 |
| 3. | Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council Act, 1925 | | 1925 |
| 4. | Hoylake Urban District Act, 1935 | .... .... .... | 1935 |

Provisional Orders.

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | Hoylake and West Kirby Electric Lighting Order, 1897 | .... | 1897 |
| 2. | Hoylake and West Kirby Order, 1906 | .... .... .... | 1906 |

Adoptive Acts.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts II. to V.
2. The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
3. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923.
4. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Powers under the following Sections :—

Part 2.	Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 and 33.
Part 6.	Sections 76 and 77.
Part 7.	Sections 79, 81 and 85.
Part 9.	The whole of
Part 10.	Section 95.
5. The Public Health Act, 1925.

Orders of the County Council.

7th November, 1889—Constitution of the Urban District.

3rd December, 1914—Dividing the Hoylake and West Kirby Urban Sanitary District into four wards. Altering the boundaries between the Urban District and the Wirral Rural District.

County of Chester Review Order, 1933, extension of District.

Council Bye-laws.

Dates of Adoption.

1. Bathing	....	....	....	....	1899
2. Seashore	....	....	....	....	1899
3. Horses, Ponies, Mules or Asses	....	....	....	....	1900
4. Prevention of Nuisances	....	....	....	....	1901
5. West Kirby Park	....	....	....	....	1902
6. Fire Brigade	....	....	....	....	1911
7. Grange Hill Recreation Ground	....	....	....	....	1914
8. Pleasure Boats and Vessels	....	....	....	....	1923
9. Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	1924
10. Steam Organ, etc.	....	....	....	....	1925
11. Meols Parade, North Parade and South Parade (Sale and Hawking)	....	....	....	....	1927
12. Wireless Installations	....	....	....	....	1928
13. Cemetery Regulations, Fees, etc.	....	....	....	....	1929
14. Driving Motor Vehicles on the Seashore	....	....	....	....	1930
15. Foreshores	....	....	....	....	1931
16. Hackney Carriages	....	....	....	....	1931
17. New Streets and Buildings	....	....	....	....	1936
18. Newton Common	....	....	....	....	1936
19. Advertisements	....	....	....	....	1937
20. Building	....	....	....	....	1939
21. Cemetery Roads	....	....	....	....	1942

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board. The sources of supply are deep wells at Grange and Newton in the former case, and from Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth in the latter. In both cases the supplies are controlled by quarterly chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated, and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those investigated during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters supplied in the area have a plumbo solvent action, and the analysts' reports have revealed no evidence of contamination in any form.

The Council's supplies have a hardness of 200 and 280, expressed in parts per million, at the Newton and Grange Works respectively, and 190 at the Town Main. Softening of the Council's supply was re-introduced to some extent during 1946. Softening of the West Cheshire Water Supply is carried out to the extent indicated below :—

Source	Hardness Parts per million	Hardness after Softening Parts per million
Hooton	265	135
Mouldsworth	310	Softening suspended
Prenton....	245	”

With the exception of seven houses on Hilbre, one house at Saughall Massie and a cottage in South Ward, public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking and domestic and trade purposes. The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep at the Home.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (*a*) direct to the house, (*b*) by means of stand pipes are given below :—

	Dwelling Houses	Population
(<i>a</i>) House direct	7,461	26,158
(<i>b</i>) Standpipes	32	115

Consumption.

The total volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks during 1947 was 374,860,000 gallons, representing a consumption of 46 gallons per head per day. This figure includes water used for trade purposes.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

The following are copies of reports on chemical and bacteriological examinations of the supplies:—

Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

Hooton Pumping Station.

Analysis of sample of water received on 15th July, 1947, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station—flamed tap in softening house. Filtered, softened and chlorinated. Taken by C. Hardman. Witness T. T. Lunt. Date 14/7/47. 11-0 a.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	Neutral : 7.4	Free Carbonic Dioxide	13
Electric Conductivity		Alkalinity as Calcium	
at 20°C	720	Carbonate	—
Total Solids, 180°C	480		
Chlorine in Chlorides....	100		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrites—Less than	0.01
Hardness : Permanent	0		
Temporary	95		
Total	95		
Metals	Iron : less than 0.03.	Other metals absent.	
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in			
4 hours at 27°C	0.000		

Bacteriological Results

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	0
1 day at 37°C.	0
2 days at 37°C.	0
The Bacillus Coli	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	

Report:

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.**WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.****Mouldsworth Pumping Station.**

Analysis of a sample of water received on 15th July, 1947, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station—flamed tap in softening house. Raw water—before chlorination. Softening curtailed.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness S. Crawford. Date 14/7/47. 12 noon.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	Neutral : 7.5	Free Carbonic Dioxide	9
Electric Conductivity		Alkalinity as Calcium	
at 20°C.	1250	Carbonate	—
Total Solids, 180°C.	830		
Chlorine in Chlorides....	300		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.6	Nitrites.....	less than 0.01
Hardness : Permanent	125		
Temporary	190		
Total.....	315		
Metals	Iron 0.15	Other metals absent	
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in			
4 hours at 27°C.	0.05		

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.		
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	1	
1 day at 37°C.	0	
2 days at 37°C.	0	
The Bacillus Coli	Present in —	Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Present in —	Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)		

Report:

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, BSc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.**WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.****Prenton Pumping Station.**

Analysis of a sample of water received on 15th July, 1947, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Prenton Pumping Station—Flamed tap in softening house. Raw water—after chlorination, softening suspended.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness W. Leyland. Date 14/7/47. 3-0 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	Neutral : 7.3	Free Carbonic Dioxide	13
Electric Conductivity		Alkalinity as Calcium	
at 20°C.	580	Carbonate	—
Total Solids, 180°C.	390		
Chlorine in Chlorides....	72		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.4	Nitrites.....	less than 0.01
Hardness : Permanent	65		
Temporary	180		
Total.....	245		
Metals	Absent		
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4			
hours at 27°C.....	0.05		

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.....	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	0
1 day at 37°C.	0
2 days at 37°C.	0
The Bacillus Coli	Present in —
Bacillus Welchii	Present in —
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes.)	
	Absent in 100 c.c.
	Absent in 100 c.c.

Report:

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purpose of a public supply.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 1st April, 1947, from Hoylake Urban District Council, Public Health Department, labelled Grange Pumping Station, Rising Main from Deep Well.

Taken by J. McKeown. Witness R. Roberts. Date 31/3/47. 12-35 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million

Appearance	Clear and bright	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.1	Free Carbonic Dioxide	12
Electric Conductivity		Total Solids, 180°C.	500
at 20°C.	750		
Chlorine in Chlorides....	152	Alkalinity as Calcium	
		Carbonate	110
Hardness : Total.....	280		
Temporary	110		
Permanent	170		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	4.2	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4		Free Chlorine reaction—	
hours at 27°C.	0.00	Absent.	
Metals	Iron : less than 0.03. Other metals absent.		

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar } per c.c. or ml. in—	1 day at	2 days at	3 days at
	37°C.	37°C.	20°C.
	0	0	0
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —	Absent from	100 c.c.
Bact. Coli	Present in —	Absent from	100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in —	Absent from	100 c.c.

Report:

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character, but not to an excessive degree, and has a high but not excessive content of salinity and mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 1st April, 1947, from Hoylake Urban District Council, Public Health Department, labelled Newton Pumping Station, Pump discharge from Rising Main Borehole. Taken by J. McKeown. Witness R. Roberts. Date 31/3/47. 1-0 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Bright, with few particles of mineral debris.	Turbidity (Silica Scale)—	
		less than 5.	
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.2	Free Carbonic Dioxide	14
Electric Conductivity		Total Solids, 180°C.	300
at 20°C.	450		
Chlorine in Chlorides....	38	Alkalinity as Calcium	
		Carbonate.....	150
Hardness : Total.....	200		
Temporary	150		
Permanent	50		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.4	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4		Free Chlorine Reaction—	
hours at 27°C.....	0.000	Absent	
Metals	Iron : less than 0.03.	Other metals	absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar } per c.c or ml in }	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0	0	1
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	—	Absent from 100c.c.
Bact. Coli	Present in	—	Absent from 100c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in	—	Absent from 100c.c.

Report:—

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is moderately hard in character and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 1st April, 1947, from Hoylake Urban District Council, Public Health Department, labelled Tap, Rising Main, Hoylake Town Hall, Hoylake. Town Mains. Taken by J. McKeown. Witness R. Roberts. Date 31/3/47. 12 noon.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.	
Turbidity	Nil	
Colour	Nil	Odour
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.1	Free Carbonic Dioxide 15
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.....	650	Total Solids, 180°C. 435
Chlorine in Chlorides....	114	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.....
Hardness : Total.....	190	135
Temporary	135	
Permanent	55	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.4	Nitrogen in Nitrites Absent
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.....	0.00	Free Chlorine reaction
		Absent.
Metals	Iron : less than 0.03.	Other metals absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar } per c.c. or ml. in }	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0	0	0
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 c.c.	
Bact. Coli	Present in —	Absent from 100 c.c.	
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 c.c.	

Report:—

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is moderately hard in character and has a high but not excessive content of salinity and mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the laying of the surface water sewers near Greenbank Road, Grange, has been completed and a short length of surface water sewer in Birkenhead Road, near its junction with Dovepoint Road, was reconstructed. Proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the provision of a new foul sewer in Carr Lane, Hoylake, to relieve flooding and to drain a new Housing Estate, and also for the replacement of a surface water sewer in Carpenters Lane by one of greater capacity.

The penstocks and control apparatus at the Meols Sewage Tanks have been renewed and the tanks generally cleaned out.

A report in connection with the reconstruction of the North Wirral Outfall Sewer has been prepared by the Engineers to the County Boroughs of Birkenhead and Wallasey and the Urban Districts of Wirral and Hoylake for submission to a representative Committee, and it is anticipated that a scheme will be prepared by Consulting Engineers during the ensuing year.

Work on the scheme for the reconstruction of the main drainage system of Hoylake and West Kirby is proceeding satisfactorily and will be presented towards the end of 1948.

Four cesspools were abolished and the drains connected with the sewer during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

Various ditches on land belonging to the Council adjoining Elm Grove have been cleaned out in order to obviate the flooding of certain low lying properties.

New sewerage arrangements are expected to overcome difficulties which exist in the vicinity of Caldý Cross Roads. One case of pollution, due to overflow from a storm water weir, was investigated at Greasby.

A new Rivers Catchment Board is being formed by the County Council and the County Boroughs of Birkenhead and Wallasey in connection with the maintenance and improvement of the main rivers. It is expected that a Committee will be formed during 1948 when progress will be made in formulating a programme of cleaning out, widening and deepening water courses. This matter is very urgent as extensive flooding has occurred from time to time rendering land incapable of agricultural use.

Closet Accommodation.

Forty-five dwellings, including twenty which are occupied as summer dwellings only, are provided with closets other than water closets. One pail closet was converted to a water closet during the year.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected from every dwelling-house each week, from shops twice each week, and from certain other premises three times each week. A bi-weekly collection is also made from schools and public institutions.

Salvage is collected from householders and conveyed by trailers attached to the freighters to the Depot in Carr Lane, Hoylake.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by tipping on low lying land at Grange, where approximately one acre of land is reclaimed each year.

Statistics.

Number of premises, excluding R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby, from which refuse was collected	....	....	7,524
Number of bins, including R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby			9,387
Weight of refuse collected per annum	....	....	8,100 tons
Average length of haul to tip	....	....	2½ miles
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises visited	....	....	£33
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 bins collected	....	....	£27

Salvage Collected.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£
Paper	206	7	2	1,306
Kitchen Waste	41	4	2	60
Textiles	10	14	0	161
Metals	6	5	0	46
Bottles and Jars	11	9	2	102
Baled Tins	29	0	2	49
Total	305	1	0	£1,724

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
	Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling Houses 1,102	—	267	233	34	—	—
Dwelling house re-visits 646	68	—	64	4	—	—
Housing 5	—	1	1	—	—	—
Housing re-visits —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding 85	—	—	—	—	—	—
Temporary dwellings 86	—	6	6	—	—	—
Camping 62	—	2	2	—	—	—
Privies, earth closets 4	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cesspools 33	—	6	5	1	—	—
Drainage 207	13	72	81	4	—	—
Ditches, watercourses.... 25	—	8	7	1	—	—
Keeping of animals 18	1	7	7	1	—	—
Offensive trades —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses 13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' shops 50	—	12	12	—	—	—
Food premises.... 187	1	18	19	—	—	—
Bakehouses 44	—	8	8	—	—	—
Shops 43	1	17	18	—	—	—
Dairies 109	—	6	6	—	—	—
Farms 59	—	4	4	—	—	—
Offices 14	—	2	2	—	—	—
Factories 53	—	15	15	—	—	—
Schools 30	—	8	5	3	—	—
Public conveniences 10	—	2	2	—	—	—
Licensed premises 23	1	5	5	1	—	—
Places of entertainment 15	—	1	1	—	—	—
Smoke abatement 14	—	1	1	—	—	—
Rat infestations 266	—	1	1	—	—	—
Verminous premises 33	—	1	1	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations 74	—	35	34	1	—	—
Infectious disease 144	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disinfection 13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bins 225	17	64	77	4	—	—
Swimming baths 4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply 20	—	2	2	—	—	—
Ice Cream 33	—	1	1	—	—	—
Building licences 737	—	—	—	—	—	—
Certificates for materials 261	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous 162	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals 4,909	102	573	621	54	—	—

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	48	22	9	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	93	111	25	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	141	133	34	—

Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	17	17	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	3	3	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	4	4	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	36	36	—	—	—

Factories Act, 1937.

Three laundries, two artificial tooth factories and a brickworks comprise the only industrial establishments of any size in the district, but, by virtue of the use of mechanical power, bakehouses, shoe repairing establishments, printers and various other small businesses are included in the term "Factory." Workshops also are subject to the Factories Act, 1937.

Shops and Offices.

Fifty-seven inspections were made of these premises, the twenty notices served all being complied with. Statutory requirements in respect of shop hours, provision of seats, washing facilities, etc., are within the jurisdiction of the Cheshire County Council and are operated by the County Weights and Measures Department.

Camping Sites.

Camping is controlled through the medium of the Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935, and Byelaws made thereunder. Consent of the Council, as provided for in the above enactment, was granted in one case to the use of land for camping purposes for a period of twelve months. One contravention of the Act, arising out of the occupation of land by five movable structures, without Council consent, was reported to the Health Committee, the matter being resolved by the demolition of one structure, the removal of another and by the adaptation of a third for use as a store shed.

A review of the temporary and movable dwellings made in August showed that a total of 61 existed on various sites, together with 17 caravans and 7 tents on the approved camping site. Of the 61, 30 were permanently occupied, 31 being used for holiday occupation only. Six subsequently ceased to be used for habitation, two being demolished, two removed and two adapted for other use.

On several occasions itinerant van dwellers have occupied secluded accommodation roads for varying periods, invariably leaving evidence of their stay in the form of refuse and litter. It is only after considerable browbeating by the Inspectors and the Police that they can be prevailed upon to depart, usually on the completion of their peddling excursions.

Smoke Abatement.

Fourteen visits were made during the year to factory premises in regard to this matter. Mitigation, rather than complete removal

of the nuisance has been all that it has been possible to achieve owing to difficulty in obtaining the correct type of fuel. Mechanical stoking is carried out to all steam raising plants, with two exceptions. Such apparatus, however, requires graded fuel to obtain optimum results and this had not been forthcoming under current conditions.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two open-air public swimming baths in the district, Hoylake Baths and the West Kirby Marine Lake.

Filtration and chlorination plants are installed at the former and the water of both swimming baths is subjected to periodical bacteriological and chemical examination.

Copies of reports are given below.

COPY OF ANALYST'S REPORT.

I have analysed the Sample of Water received from the Medical Officer of Health, Hoylake Urban District Council, on the 6th August, 1947, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

Mark and denomination of the sample. DEEP END (10 ft.) HOYLAKE BATHS, taken 11.10 a.m., 6/8/47.

Total solid matter in solution	...	...	...	...	3300.0
Oxygen required to oxidise...	{ in 15 mins. in 3 hours }				0.033 0.035 0.010
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.010
Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with alkaline permanganate	...	...	...	...	0.020
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	Minute trace
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	None
Combined Chlorine...	...	...	...	...	1640.0

Reaction to Litmus—faintly alkaline.
pH Value 8.2.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.

(Signed) J. F. CLARK, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.
City Analyst.

OBSERVATIONS.

The sample was clear, colourless and possessed a faint odour of chlorine. It contained only a trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris, infusoria, hydrated oxide of iron and particles of siliceous matter.

The results of analysis indicate that the sea water after passing through the bath is chemically entirely satisfactory.

COPY OF ANALYST'S REPORT.

I have analysed the Sample of Water received from the Medical Officer of Health, Hoylake Urban District Council, on the 6th August, 1947, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000:—

Mark and denomination of the sample. Inside NORTHERN BREAKWATER, WEST KIRBY BATHS.

Total solid matter in solution	....	....	....	3520.0
Oxygen required to oxidise....	{			0.18
	in 3 mins.	....	....	
	in 4 hours	....	....	0.42
Ammonia	....	....	....	0.030
Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with alkaline permanganate....	....	....	....	0.030
Nitrogen as Nitrates	....	....	....	None
Nitrogen as Nitrites	....	....	....	Minute trace
Combined Chlorine....	....	....	....	1725.0

Reaction to Litmus—faintly alkaline.
pH Value 8.2.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.

(Signed) J. F. CLARK, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.
City Analyst.

OBSERVATIONS.

The sample was faintly turbid, slightly yellow, and odourless. It contained a heavy trace of suspended matter, which consisted mainly of vegetable debris, infusoria, chlorophyceae, hydrated oxide of iron, and particles of siliceous matter.

The results of analysis indicate that the water is free from any appreciable contamination and is very satisfactory for this type of bathing pool.

COPY.

Bacteriological Department,
126, Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.

9th August, 1947.

REPORT ON THREE SAMPLES OF WATER.

Date	Description	Bacteria per c.c.		B. coli per 100 c.c.	Total Coliform Organisms per 100 c.c.	B. Welchii	Class
		at 37° C.	at 22° C.				
6.8.47	Taken at deep end of the Hoylake Swimming Bath	2	0	0	0	—	1
	Taken inside Northern Breakwater, Swimming Pool, West Kirby	19	87	350	350	—	4
	Taken at Shallow end of the Hoylake Swimming Bath	0	0	0	0	—	1

Class 1 = Highly Satisfactory.

Class 2 = Satisfactory.

Class 3 = Suspicious.

Class 4 = Unsatisfactory.

D. T. ROBINSON (*Signed*).

City Bacteriologist.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	2
(b) Other houses	....	....	....	....	....	10

Number of houses disinfested :—

(a) Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	2
(b) Other houses	....	....	....	....	....	10

Method employed :—Spraying with D.D.T. Insecticide.

Schools.

All the schools of the district are supplied from the public water supply and are provided with water closets. The condition of some of the older schools is far from satisfactory and, during the year, reports on unsatisfactory conditions of sanitary conveniences were submitted to the Health Committee relating to three aided schools. As a result the Managers have applied to the County Council for the inclusion of the schools in the "controlled" category, whereby the County Council assumes full responsibility for school buildings. One school is now controlled and completion of negotiations is pending in the other two cases.

Housing.

The house-building programme of the Council has arrived at the stage where some tangible improvement in the living conditions of the population is being achieved. Seventy-six new Council houses were occupied during the year and, applying the standards of the Housing Act, seventy cases of overcrowding were abated, involving 296 persons, 119 of whom were children under 10 years.

The total number of applications received to the end of the year is 900, of which 702 have been assessed in the Priority List and 198 excluded on account of absence of residential qualification. One new house and one flat in a requisitioned house were allocated to nurses in the Cheshire County Council Midwifery Service. Sixty cases in which health reasons were advanced for increased priority were investigated and additional points awarded in seventeen cases.

During the year the following progress has been made :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1947	76	27	103
Number of totally destroyed war damaged houses erected in 1947....	—	8	8
Number of flats provided in 1947	2	48	50
Total	78	83	161

At the end of the year the Local Authority had 92 houses under erection and private enterprise 18 units of accommodation under construction. The following table indicates the progress made since the 1st August, 1945, when the Ministry of Health authorised the commencement of housing programmes :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945	86	115	201
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945	—	9	9
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945	15	124	139
Totals	101	248	349

It is intended to proceed with further contracts as and when Government approval can be obtained.

The Health Department has continued to assist in the inspection of works of repair and maintenance under the Civil Building Licensing Scheme, and during the year 1,873 licences have been issued to a value of £138,000.

Representations.

One official representation, under the Housing Act, was made in respect of a wooden building designed as a summer dwelling, which had been used for permanent habitation, and a Demolition Order was served as a result.

Heron Road Camp.

During August, 1946, a former military camp, comprising 25 Nissen huts of various sizes, eight wooden buildings and various sanitary and food preparing blocks, was occupied by 23 families of "squatters," six derived from Hoylake, 13 from Wallasey and four from Birkenhead. In an effort to render the buildings suitable for individual family accommodation, materials were acquired from the communal camp buildings, with consequent damage to structure and fittings, and the condition of sanitary and ablution blocks deteriorated rapidly, so as to give rise to serious apprehension from a public health point of view.

A report was submitted to the Council, describing the conditions obtaining, and outlining measures necessary to deal with the problem and, following representation to the Ministry of Health, the camp came under the control of the Council in the beginning of the year under review. Despite the rigours of a severe winter, which occasioned frequent freezing up of water supplies and sanitary facilities, necessitating daily attention by the Sanitary Staff over a long period, work was proceeded with so as to create order out of chaos. All unused buildings were demolished to limit further occupation, the larger Nissen huts were sub-divided to accommodate two families, rooms were partitioned off, main drainage was provided to each habitation, together with water closet, heating and cooking facilities, electric light, washing accommodation, water supply and paved approach separate to each habitation. Thirty-one families are now accommodated at the camp in nineteen buildings, the remaining structures having been demolished.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are twenty-four cow-keepers on the register, twenty being wholesale purveyors and four retail purveyors of milk. The designation of the milk produced and the distribution thereof is indicated in the following table :—

Designation	Number	Milk Retailed		Sent for Pasteurisation
		Locally	In Other Districts	
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—	—
Accredited	15	11	—	4
Ungraded	8	4	1	3
Totals ...	24	16	1	7

In-coming milk, derived from several external districts, falls in the following categories :—

Tuberculin Tested	....	3
Pasteurised	....	6
Accredited	....	5
Ungraded	....	3

Milk Sampling.

Samples of milk supplies were taken for bacteriological and biological examination and the results obtained are set out in the table below:

Designation	Number of Samples	B. Coli		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Tubercle Bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative
Pasteurised	14	—	—	14	—	13	1	—	—
Accredited	49	29	20	34	15	—	—	6	43
Tuberculin Tested	6	4	2	4	2	—	—	—	6
Ungraded	32	20	12	23	9	—	—	1	31
Totals ...	101	53	34	75	26	13	1	7	80

The proportion of samples positive for tubercle shows a reduction on the previous year, the figure being seven positive out of 87 submitted. By far the greater proportion of the milk sold in the district is pasteurised. All schools—eight Primary, two Secondary, and 12 Private—are supplied with milk of this grade, and also the School Feeding Centre at Greasby. Milk supplied to the five local institutions admitting children is as follows :—three Pasteurised, one Tuberculin Tested, one Accredited.

There are nineteen Dairymen and Retail Purveyors of milk registered in the district. Licences in respect of Designated Milk were issued as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested Dealers' Licences	....	....	12
Tuberculin Tested Supplementary Licences	....		3
Pasteurised Supplementary Licences	....	....	4

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat Inspection.

Home killed meat sold in this district is derived from an abattoir operated by the Ministry of Food at Bebington. Since several other districts are also served by this establishment, inspection involves practically the whole-time presence of one of the Bebington Inspectors and this Council, in common with the other areas, contributes towards his salary.

Meat which was found on routine examination at local butchers' shops to be unfit for human consumption was returned to the above abattoir for bulk condemnation and salvage. The total amount of meat found to be unfit for consumption, principally by reason of decomposition and bone taint, amounted to 10 cwts. 22 lbs.

There are now no private slaughterhouses, either licensed or registered, in the Hoylake Urban District. The licences of the two which existed until the end of 1946 lapsed on the 31st December of that year. Seven slaughtermen's licences were issued.

Food Premises.

Considerable time has been taken up by visits to food premises, following requests by retailers for the issue of Surrender Notes, which are the pre-requisites for the replacement of supplies and points by the Food Control Authorities.

In respect of improvements, three cafe kitchens have been remodelled, and hot water facilities have been provided in seven premises at which food is retailed.

The following is a list of the principal foods surrendered :—

Article Condemned	Quantity	Reason for Condemnation
Canned Meat and Meat Products	1,157 tins	Blown. Perforated
Meat	1,144 lbs.	Bone taint. Decomposition
Bacon	13 lbs.	Decomposition.
Canned Fish	105 tins	Blown. Perforated
Canned Vegetables	233 tins	Blown. Perforated
Vegetables	36 lbs.	Decomposition
Canned Fruit....	61 tins	Blown. Perforated
Fruit	81 lbs.	Decomposition
Canned Milk	344 tins	Blown. Perforated
Cereal	293 lbs.	Mite Infestation
Liquid Egg	28 lbs.	Decomposition
Sweets	33½ lbs.	Mite Infestation

Disposal was carried out with due regard to the salvage aspect.

Ice Cream.

Allocations of the ingredients necessary for the manufacture of ice cream are made by the Food Authorities to fifteen persons who were manufacturers of this commodity in the basic year 1939. Eight of this number manufacture ice cream at premises within the district, the remainder having transferred their allocation to large scale manufacturers and receiving the finished article in return, and so are now concerned only with the retail side. One manufacturer has improved his premises in the light of the new regulations.

Ten samples taken were classified in the following grades :—

Grade 2	....	....	....	1
Grade 3	....	....	....	3
Grade 4	....	....	....	6

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Hoylake Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Name of Sample	Number Taken	Number not up to Standard
Almond Flavouring	1	—
Butter	1	—
Baking Powder	2	—
Boracic Ointment	3	—
Black Pepper	1	—
Beef Extract	1	—
Beef Paste	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Chocolate Spread	1	—
Cinnamon	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	2	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Ginger Wine Flavouring	1	—
Ginger, Ground	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Gin	1	—
Iodine	1	—
Liquorice	1	—
Lemon Flavouring	1	—
Milk	40	5
Margarine	1	—
Malt Vinegar	2	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Potted Meat	1	—
Rose Hip Syrup	1	—
Sulphur Ointment	1	—
Sweets	2	—
Sardines in Oil	1	—
Salmon Paste....	1	—
Whisky	3	—
Yeast	1	—
Zinc Ointment	2	—
Totals	82	5

**Particulars of Non-Standard Samples during the year ended
31st December, 1947.**

Number	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	13.3% deficient in fat	Bottled T.T. milk as received by retailer. Supplier cautioned.
2	Milk	3.3% deficient in fat	Abnormal. No action
3	Milk	10.3% deficient in fat 2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids	Retail sale. Seller cautioned
4	Milk	5.6% of extraneous water	Sample taken from a retailer immediately following delivery by farmer Farmer cautioned.
5	Milk	1.2% deficient in non-fatty solids	Abnormal. No action

Shellfish.

Shellfish layings are located on the Hoylake Foreshore at Spencer's Spit (cockles), adjoining Hilbre Island (mussels), and a third (cockles) has recently developed below Tanskey Rocks at West Kirby.

By an amended Order which came into operation on 1st July, 1944, the prescribed area from which the taking of mussels and cockles is prohibited for sale for human consumption is delineated as "The foreshore of the River Mersey on the Cheshire side thereof between the Manchester Ship Canal and the Red Stones at Hoylake, the western limit being the boundary of the Customs Port of Liverpool, *i.e.*, an imaginary line drawn approximately north-north-east true from Hilbre Point to join a line drawn from Formby Point in a true north-north-westerly direction and extending to a distance of three miles from low water mark along the coast within the aforesaid limits."

The responsible Authority, under the Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934, is the Liverpool Port Health Authority. This Order has reference to the major part of the first mentioned laying only. The taking of shellfish from the other two, which comes within the jurisdiction of the Chester Port Health Authority, is not the subject of any Order made under the Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934.

**Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.
Infestation Order, 1943.**

The Council acts as agent for the Cheshire County Council in respect of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, in regard to the built-up areas of the district only, the agricultural holdings and railway property being excluded. One Rat Catcher is employed, his wages being borne by the County Council in respect of treatment of properties other than those which are Council owned. Seventy-six complaints of minor infestation were dealt with during the year in addition to routine inspection and treatment of focal points of infestation.

Scabies.

No cases required treatment during the year.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

440 cases of notifiable diseases, other than tuberculosis, occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the table below, and they include the following non-civilian cases :—

Scarlet fever	....	....	....	69
Pneumonia	....	....	....	11
Measles	....	....	....	33
Cerebro spinal fever	....	....	....	3
Erysipelas	....	....	....	1

The incidence of measles and scarlet fever was higher than that of recent years, though the diseases generally were mild in type and serious complications were the exception.

Three cases of cerebro spinal fever which were notified occurred amongst service personnel, and the one case of diphtheria was an adult who had never had immunisation treatment against the disease.

There were no cases of typhoid or dysentery, and the two cases of paratyphoid which were reported were not severe in character. Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. In one case full recovery is expected, but in the other this unfortunately is not so.

Seventeen cases of pneumonia were reported, the majority of these being service personnel.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1947.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years											
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever 	119	—	—	7	20	15	76	1	—	—	34	—	
Diphtheria 	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Pneumonia 	17	—	—	—	2	—	12	—	1	2	—	16	
Measles 	250	5	26	53	113	14	34	5	—	—	20	—	
Whooping Cough 	34	3	6	10	9	1	1	1	3	—	6	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever 	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas 	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	—	2	—	
Typhoid 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid 	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Dysentery 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia 	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis 	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
TOTALS ...	440	8	33	70	145	32	127	13	10	2	66	16	

Infectious Disease.

The figures in the preceding table include the following cases of infectious disease which occurred at the various institutions in the district, *i.e.*, Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, The Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage, Frankby and Torpenhow Open Air School.

Age	Disease			Totals
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	
Under 1	—	—	—	—
1—3	—	2	5	7
3—5	3	4	8	15
5—10	9	—	5	14
10—15	10	—	—	10
15—25	1	—	1	2
TOTALS	23	6	19	48

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Hoylake
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.08
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.11
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	4.53
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.29
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.04
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.42
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	9.51
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.65
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
Puerperal Fever	} 7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21 * 6.94	0.04
Puerperal Pyrexia					

* Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held during 1947			29
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation during 1947.	Age at date of final injection.		Total
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	
	192	49	241
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection during 1947.	99		

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/47 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5—9 1938— 1942	10—14 1933— 1937	Total under 15
Number Immunised	11	134	130	151	145	789	861	2,221
Estimated mid-year population 1947	1,860					3,230		5,090
Percentage immunised to child population	30.7%					51.1%		43.6%

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1947 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	—
35—45 years	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55 years	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
55—65 years	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	7	8	2	3	6	8	1	—

Note:—Of the total deaths from tuberculosis 20% had not been notified.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1947.	61	45	106	17	13	30	136
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1947.	6	8	14	2	3	5	19
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	2	3	5	1	2	3	8
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	29	27	56	10	10	20	76
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1947.	42	29	71	10	8	18	89

NESTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Neston was constituted an Urban District in 1894 and was extended on 1st April, 1933 by the inclusion of the Parish of Ness and parts of the Parishes of Burton, Puddington, Eastham, Willaston, Raby and Thornton Hough.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	8,497
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1947)	9,288
Number of inhabited houses	2,612
Rateable value	£72,481
Sum represented by a penny rate	£280

Until a new census is taken, the estimate of the population must be regarded as provisional.

The area is residential and agricultural. The aforetime occupation of fishing still predominates at Parkgate. There are a number of scholastic institutions. Light industries of a type new to the district have been established.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1939—1947 in Neston :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population
1939	8,606	28 more births than deaths +3.3
1940	8,956	39 more births than deaths +4.4
1941	9,468	28 more births than deaths +3.0
1942	9,645	17 more births than deaths +1.8
1943	9,275	61 more births than deaths +6.6
1944	8,897	51 more births than deaths +5.7
1945	8,715	45 more births than deaths +5.2
1946	9,212	61 more births than deaths +6.6
1947	9,288	89 more births than deaths +9.6

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1947.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 9,288, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	188	106	82
Illegitimate	....	....	....	7	1	6
Totals	....	....	....	195	107	88
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population						20.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales						20.5
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)						22.2

Stillbirths.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	5	5	—
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
Totals	....	....	....	5	5	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						25.0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales						24.0

Deaths.				Total	Males	Females
				106	47	59
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population						11.4
Death Rate for England and Wales						12.0
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)....						11.9

The Registrar-General has not supplied a Comparability Factor since 1940, because the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempts to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors have been suspended for the present.

The absence of a Comparability Factor precludes a comparison between the former two rates.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil	—
Other maternal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	11	8	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	12	8	4

All infants per 1,000 live births.... 61.5

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 58.5

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 142.9

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 41

Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and
Wales (population 25,000—50,000).... 36

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 17

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 3

Number of Deaths during Years 1939—1947.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1939	117	13.3
1940	117	13.1
1941	117	12.4
1942	118	12.2
1943	109	11.7
1944	120	13.5
1945	94	10.8
1946	112	12.2
1947	106	11.4

Deaths at Various Ages During 1947.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	12
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	2
5 years and under 15	1
15 years and under 25	—
25 years and under 35	1
35 years and under 45	3
45 years and under 55	2
55 years and under 65	15
65 years and under 75	32
75 years and under 85	32
85 years and over	6
Total	106

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1939—1947.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Neston	England and Wales
1939	40.5	50
1940	30.7	55
1941	72.4	59
1942	22.2	49
1943	41.1	49
1944	64.3	46
1945	43.2	46
1946	57.8	43
1947	61.5	41

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 36 in 1947.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	5
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Premature Birth	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Total ...	2	2	—	2	3	2	1	—	12

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
7. Other forms of tuberculosis....	—	2	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	—	1	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
15. Cancer of breast	—	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	3	5	8
17. Diabetes	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	4	15	19
19. Heart disease	14	20	34
20. Other diseases of circulatory system....	—	2	2
21. Bronchitis	4	—	4
22. Pneumonia	1	1	2
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	1	3
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	—	2	2
28. Nephritis	1	1	2
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis....	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	1	2	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	4	1	5
33. Suicide	1	—	1
34. Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
35. Other violent causes	—	—	—
36. All other causes	7	—	7
TOTALS	47	59	106

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

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Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
						Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate		Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales
1939	8,606	145	16.9	15.0	92	6	31	6	40.5	50	117	13.3	13.7	12.1	+ 28
1940	8,956	156	17.4	14.6	90	8	35	5	30.7	55	117	13.1	12.4	14.3	+ 39
1941	9,468	145	15.3	14.2	92	14	39	11	72.4	59	117	12.4		12.9	+ 28
1942	9,645	135	14.0	15.8	100	19	37	3	22.2	49	118	12.2		11.6	+ 17
1943	9,275	170	18.3	16.5	68	8	49	7	41.1	49	109	11.7		12.1	+ 61
1944	8,897	171	19.2	17.6	79	12	53	11	64.3	46	120	13.5		11.6	+ 51
1945	8,715	139	16.0	16.1	71	9	32	6	43.2	46	94	10.8		11.4	+ 45
1946	9,212	173	18.8	19.1	85	13	40	10	57.8	43	112	12.2		11.5	+ 61
1947	9,288	195	20.9	20.5	80	17	43	12	61.5	41	106	11.4		12.0	+ 89

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

A private laboratory is employed for the routine examination of clinical material and for the investigation of disease.

Food and Drugs throughout the District are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Water supplies, swimming baths and sewage effluents are investigated for the Council by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The Municipal Laboratories at Birkenhead are employed for the examination of milk and ice cream samples.

Ambulance Facilities.

The authorities at the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, undertake the transport of accident, sick and maternity cases to the Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board are responsible for the removal of infectious cases.

The ambulances of the Merseyside Hospitals Council are available for the service of subscribers in this area.

The Ambulance Service which was provided by the Council during the War period was discontinued in 1946.

Nursing in the Home.

The following organisations provide the services of a District Nurse :—

The Neston and Parkgate District Nursing Association—Queen's Nurse.

The Burton and Puddington District Nursing Association.

The Willaston District Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held in the Town Hall, Neston, on the third Thursday of each month at 2-30 p.m. Supplementary Clinics are also arranged from time to time as required.

Scabies treatment is given by arrangement in the Out-Patients' Department of the Neston Cottage Hospital.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

	Each Month.	Time.
Child Welfare.		
Wesleyan Church School-room, Neston	Every Thursday	 2-30 p.m.
Red Cross Centre, Willaston	Alternate Fridays	 2-30 p.m.
School Clinic.		
Wesleyan Church School-room, Neston	Every Wednesday	 2-30 p.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic		
Out-Patients' Department County General Hospital, Clatterbridge	Every Friday	 9-30 a.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary		
42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead	Every Tuesday and Friday	 2-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.	Males	
Birkenhead General Hospital	Monday, Wednesday and Friday	5-30—7-0 p.m.
	Females	
	Tuesday	 5-30—7-0 p.m.
	Wednesday and Friday	 2-0—4-0 p.m.
Chester Royal Infirmary	Males	
	Wednesday	 5-0—7-0 p.m.
	Saturday	 12-0—2-0 p.m.
	Females	
	Monday and Thursday	 5-0—7-0 p.m.

Hospitals.

Voluntary.

The Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital has 25 beds and two cots. It is equipped for general surgery, and has Massage and Out-Patient Departments. It is staffed by local Medical Practitioners and visiting Consultants.

The Voluntary Hospitals in Chester, Birkenhead and Liverpool admit patients from this District.

Public.

Isolation Hospital.

The Neston Urban District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board. The Board's Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge has accommodation for 100 patients. The Hospital has modern cubicle wards and a new nurses' home was constructed in 1937. Infectious patients from this area are treated in the hospital where necessary, and under certain conditions beds may be available for measles and whooping cough cases. At Pensby there is a hospital with 12 beds for convalescent scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board have an arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority for the admission of smallpox patients to the Smallpox Hospital at New Ferry.

General.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge has been extended and modernised during recent years, and now offers comprehensive services for the investigation and treatment of sickness to residents of this District. The Hospital contains 430 beds, including 34 beds in the Maternity Block, and the hospital has a large staff of resident practitioners and visiting consultants.

Mortuaries.

There is a mortuary at the Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital.

Legislation in Force.

Adopted Acts.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Parts 3, 4).
2. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.
3. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts 1900.
4. Public Health Act 1925, Part 2, except s. 20, and Part 6.

Bye-Laws.

1. New Streets and Buildings 1930.
2. Offensive Trades 1929.
3. Drainage of Buildings 1933.
4. Slaughterhouses 1937.
5. Nuisances 1938.
6. Buildings 1939.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks, and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board.

Frequent sampling of raw and chlorinated water is done. Typical analyses of both are given below.

The position in relation to the Council's new borehole is as described in the Report for 1944.

Mostyn House School has a private supply of water from an artesian well at the School.

None of the waters supplied in the area have a plumbo solvent action, and the Analysts' reports have revealed no evidence of contamination.

The Council's supplies are not softened, and have a hardness of 225, expressed in parts per million. Softening of the West Cheshire Water Supply is carried out to the extent indicated on page 20.

Complaints continue to be received from residents in the Willaston area, which is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board, of intermittent discolouration of the supply. A sample has been taken and there has been correspondence with the Board. The analyst reported that the water, though discoloured, was not unwholesome.

Every house, with one exception, has a piped supply from the public mains. Details are given below :—

				Dwelling Houses	Population
(a)	House direct	....	....	2,610	9,283
(b)	Standpipes	....	....	1	5

Consumption.

The total volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks during 1947 was 126,329,000 gallons, representing a consumption of 45 gallons per head per day.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

Analyst's Report.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 10th April, 1947, from Neston Urban District Council.

Labelled Rising Main to Borehole—Waterworks, Little Neston.

Date 9/4/47. 9-45 a.m.

Taken by A. E. Prince. Witness J. Booth. Signed A. E. Prince.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Bright with very few particles of mineral debris.		
	Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica Scale.		
Colour	Nil.	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral. 7.2	Free Carbonic Dioxide	13
Electric Conductivity		Total Solids dried at	
at 20°C.	460	180°C.	310
Chlorine in Chlorides	27	Alkalinity as Calcium	
		Carbonate	140
Hardness: Total	225	Temporary	140
		Permanent	85
Nitrogen in Nitrates	6.8	Nitrogen in Nitrites	
		less than	0.01
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in			
4 hours at 27°C.	0.15		
Metals	Iron: less than 0.03. Other metals absent		

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria	}	1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C		
growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in		0	0	0
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present — Absent 100 c.c.			
Bact. Coli	Present — Absent 100 c.c.			
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present — Absent 100 c.c.			

Report:—

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 10th April, 1947, from
Neston Urban District Council.

Labelled Supply Main, Waterworks, Little Neston.

Date 9/4/47. 11-0 a.m.

Taken by A. E. Prince. Witness J. Booth. Signed A. E. Prince.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	
	Nil.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.3	Free Carbonic Dioxide	10
Electric Conductivity at		Total Solids dried at	
20°C.....	460	180°C.	310
Chlorine in Chlorides....	27	Alkalinity as Calcium	
		Carbonate	140
Hardness : Total.....	225	Temporary	140
		Permanent	85
Nitrogen in Nitrates	6.8	Nitrogen in Nitrites	
		less than	0.01
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4			
hours at 27°C.	0.05		
Metals	Iron : less than 0.03.	Other metals absent.	
	‘Free chlorine reaction’ absent.		

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in		} 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C. 0 0 0		
Presumptive Coliform Reaction			Present — Absent	100 c.c.
Bact. Coli		Present — Absent	100 c.c.	
Cl. welchii Reaction		Present — Absent	100 c.c.	

Report:—

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extension of the sewers are necessary in order that the number of cesspools and so-called septic tanks may be reduced. There are some 281 of these private disposal plants in the area and they are the subject of constant complaints.

Three cesspools were abolished during the year and the premises were connected with the main sewer.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have reported upon the necessary sewer extensions.

The prevailing type of septic tank is one in which the filtering medium is constantly submerged, and the effluent from such an apparatus is inevitably foul, as the filter is unable either to carry out its biological function or to aerate the tank liquor. It is suggested that wherever possible the recommendations contained in the Technical Appendices to the Housing Manual relating to private disposal plants should be adopted.

Rivers and Streams.

A stream at Willaston is polluted by the effluent from a sewage disposal works, and steps are being taken to withdraw the effluent from the stream.

Closet Accommodation.

The 37 privy middens in the former colliery area are still in existence, and constitute a constant source of annoyance to the residents. A scheme for their abolition has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

Public Cleansing.

Removal of house refuse is carried out by the Urban District Council. Two motor vehicles and one horse drawn vehicle are employed.

Disposal is by controlled tipping. The present tipping site is rapidly becoming filled. An area adjacent to the existing tip of approximately half an acre has been acquired to provide for extension

Salvage.

The following table shows the material dealt with during the year :—

Material	Weight			£	s.	d.
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.			
Paper	27	15	0	180	2	0
Bones	—	12	0	3	0	0
Metal	—	10	0	2	0	0
Rags	2	9	0	21	0	0
Bottles and Jars	2	0	0	8	10	0
Total				£214	12	0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
	Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses :						
Inspected 359	9	72	71	10	—	—
Re infectious disease.... 40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Acts on complaints 75	—	17	14	3	—	—
House to house inspections 65	8	23	27	4	—	—
Overcrowding —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, vans and sheds 24	4	2	6	—	—	—
Factories 63	—	17	17	—	—	—
Theatres and cinemas.... 8	—	4	—	4	—	—
Cowsheds 82	4	10	14	—	—	—
Dairies 23	—	2	2	—	—	—
Milk samples —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premises used for preparation of food 136	—	16	15	1	—	—
Fried fish shops 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice cream premises 16	—	1	1	—	—	—
Water samples 14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of animals 28	—	20	20	—	—	—
Schools 21	—	2	2	—	—	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc. 10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Back passages 5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains inspected 18	—	5	5	—	—	—
„ smoke tested —	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ water tested —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks and cess- pools 47	—	21	20	1	—	—
Refuse collection and disposal 213	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations 41	—	13	13	—	—	—
Rats and mice des- truction 127	—	12	12	—	—	—
Pools, ditches and watercourses 37	—	3	2	1	—	—
Privy middens.... 229	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public conveniences 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed premises 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and bins 62	2	16	16	2	—	—
Scabies 6	6	—	6	—	—	—
Sewage effluent samples —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous persons cleansed —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Control of civil building 510	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total 2,266	33	256	263	26	—	—

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	22	4	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	37	13	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	—	—
Total	50	63	17	—

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	6	6	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	16	—	3	—

Factories Act, 1937.

The factories in the district have been visited from time to time and the attention of the occupiers has been directed to those matters necessary to secure compliance with the Act.

Shops and Offices.

Inspections under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, were made to secure compliance with the provisions of the Section.

Camping Sites.

No Licences were granted during the year under Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The transient use of roadside wastes and accommodation roads by itinerant van dwellers continues to be a cause of annoyance, and the provisions of the Public Health Act are quite inadequate to control these wanderers. Only by the threatened exercise of imaginary powers, together with close liaison with the police, is any improvement secured. Legislation is needed in order to deal with these people.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with smoke nuisances.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is a privately owned bath at Parkgate. The water was examined on the 10th June, 1947, and the analyst's report is given below :—

Analyst's Report.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 11th June, 1947, from Neston Urban District Council.

Date 10/6/47. 11-20 a.m.

Labelled Parkgate Swimming Bath—Point under diving board.

Taken by A. E. Prince. Witness Mr. W. J. Sare. Signed A. E. Prince.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance Faint opalescence with very slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris.
Many diatoms and infusoria present.

Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 5	
Colour (Hazen)	Faint yellow-brown 12	Odour
		Nil
Reaction pH.	Faint alkaline 8.4	Free Carbon Dioxide —
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	—	Total Solids, 180°C. —
Chlorine in Chlorides.....	15,600	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.....
		—
Hardness : Total.....	—	Carbonate.....Non-carbonate.....
	(Temporary)	(Permanent)
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.032	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.....
		4.40
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.30	Free Chlorine Reaction Absent.
Metals	Iron : 0.03.	Other metals absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	$\left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{ccc} \text{1 day at } 37^{\circ}\text{C.} & \text{2 days at } 37^{\circ}\text{C.} & \text{3 days at } 20^{\circ}\text{C.} \\ 0 & 3 & 18 \end{array}$
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in — Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli.....	Present in — Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

Report:—

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance. The water is faintly alkaline in reaction, saline in character and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It is not of a high standard of organic quality but the bacterial purity is very satisfactory.

The water is therefore considered suitable for swimming bath purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	Nil
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	Nil

Number of Houses Disinfested :—

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	Nil
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	Nil

Schools.

All the elementary schools in the area are supplied from the public water supply. All have water closets, but some are of the trough type. The provision of a standard type of wash-down pedestal closet with individual flushing cisterns should be considered, and the children instructed in their proper use.

The provision of washing facilities is often inadequate, and the inadequacy is emphasised by the fact that many children now take their mid-day meal at school. In some instances the accommodation consists of enamelled iron basins sunk in a wooden surround, which rapidly becomes foul. Here too, the advantages of providing a range of modern porcelain enamelled lavatory basins with hot, in addition to cold, water would speedily become evident.

The condition of some of the schools is such that no hygienist would care to defend them. They are obviously out of accord with present day ideas, and suffer from fundamental defects in relation to lighting, ventilation and heating, apart from their deficiencies in sanitary accommodation, to which reference is made above.

Housing.

During the year work commenced on 34 houses on the Burton Road site, and towards the end of the year 25 pre-fabricated bungalows were almost completed. The site for the 150 houses at Mellock Lane was in course of development with road, water and sewerage installations. The erection of 10 houses at Bendee Road for sale eventually to the Council proceeded during the year, and in addition the conversion of the hostels at Clay Hill progressed.

No attempt can be made to deal with the groups of houses which would normally fall to be dealt with as unfit for human habitation. The three cottages which were the subject of Clearance Orders in 1934, and another which was the subject of an undertaking by the owner, remain in occupation.

The table below shows the number of licences issued under the Control of Civil Building Scheme, and the value of the work authorised:

Type of Property	Number of Licences Issued	Value of Work Licensed
Houses	430	£29,826
Other properties	80	4,423
Total	510	£34,249

During the year the following progress has been made :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1947 :—			
(a) Permanent	13	8	21
(b) Temporary	—	—	—
Number of totally destroyed war damaged houses erected in 1947....	—	—	—
Number of flats provided in 1947	—	4	4
Totals	13	12	25

The progress made since the building programme commenced is shown below :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :—			
(a) Permanent	13	18	31
(b) Temporary	—	—	—
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945	—	—	—
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945	—	14	14
Totals	13	32	45

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 39 registered producers, 22 of whom are “accredited ” and 7 “attested.”

Licences authorising the use of special designations were granted as follows :—

To					
Sell Accredited milk	....	....	....	....	1
Sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	....	....	....	....	1
Bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	1
Sell Pasteurised milk —supplementary	....	....	....	....	3
Sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)— supplementary	....	....	....	....	1
					—
Total	....				7

Meat and Other Foods.

The following table shows the quantity of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Article Condemned	Weight in lbs.	Reason for Condemnation
Canned Meat and Meat Products	99	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Milk	284	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Fish	77	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Fruit....	284	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Vegetables	64	Blown and punctured containers
Jam	10	Broken glass containers
Cheese....	5	Mould
Beef (Imported)	40	Decomposition
Black Puddings	43	Decomposition
Bacon	87	Bone taint.
Wet Fish	56	Decomposition
Cereals	136	Weevil Infected
Butter	9	Rancid
Total weight in lbs.	1,194	

Condemnation Certificates in the form requested by the Ministry of Food (Form M/Cond'n/1) were supplied in each case, and the condemned material was appropriately dealt with, due regard being paid to Ministry of Health Circular 2886 of 17th November, 1943, in this connection.

Adulteration.

Control of the sophistication, etc., of food and drugs is in the hands of the Cheshire County Council.

Particulars of samples obtained in the Neston Urban District during 1947, are given below:—

List of Samples taken in the Neston Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

Name of Sample	Number Taken	Number not up to Standard
Almond Flavouring	1	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Borax	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	—
Milk	15	1
Malt Vinegar	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Milk, dried	1	—
Oatmeal	1	—
Seidlitz Powders	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
Totals	27	1

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples during the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

Number	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	7.0% deficient in non-fatty solids	Genuine, but abnormal. No action

Shellfish.

There are no layings within the district.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943,

The scheme outlined in the Report for 1944 continues to function satisfactorily, and there is now no known major or reservoir infestation on premises within the jurisdiction of the Council.

Twelve occupiers of business and domestic premises availed themselves of the services of the rat-catcher.

Scabies.

Eight cases of scabies received treatment at the Out-patients' Department of the Neston Cottage Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

205 cases of notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis occurred during the year, and details of these are given in the following table.

These included 154 cases of measles, the incidence of which was unusually heavy, especially in the early months of the year.

No cases of diphtheria, cerebro spinal fever, enteric fever, dysentery or puerperal pyrexia were reported.

Two cases of poliomyelitis in Willaston were notified. In one of these full recovery is expected, but in the other complete recovery is unlikely.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1947.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years								65 & over			
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65				
Scarlet Fever 	5	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	
Diphtheria 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia 	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	2	
Measles 	154	9	18	36	66	23	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	38	5	7	14	10	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas 	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Typhoid 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomylclitis 	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS ...	205	14	26	51	78	26	4	2	2	2	4	2	

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Neston
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	0.54
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	4.09
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	16.58
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.54
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
Puerperal Fever	} 7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21 *6.94	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia					

* Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held during 1947			8
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation during 1947	Age at date of final injection		Total
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	
	68	6	74
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection during 1947.	3		

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/47 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5—9 1938— 1942	10—14 1933— 1937	Total under 15
Number Immunised	6	65	59	70	70	361	501	1,132
Estimated mid-year population 1947	720					1,310		2,030
Percentage immunised to child population	38.1%					67.3%		55.7%

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1947 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—15 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—25 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	2

Note:—Of the total deaths from tuberculosis 25% had not been notified.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1947.	20	15	35	11	15	26	61
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1947.	2	—	2	1	1	2	4
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	1	2	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	10	4	14	7	6	13	27
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1947.	13	13	26	5	10	15	41

WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT.

This district was constituted under the Chester Review Order, 1st April, 1933. It includes the Parishes of Heswall, Barnston, Gayton, Irby, Pensby, Thurstaston and parts of Brimstage, Thornton Hough and Arrowe.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	....	....	....	....	....	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1947)	....	....	....	....	....	16,610
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	4,953
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£143,508
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£589

The district is residential. Agriculture, fishing and building trade industries engage a large number of persons. There is a tendency now to the establishment of light industries.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1939—1947 in Wirral :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population
1939	13,170	122 more births than deaths +9.3
1940	17,190	92 more births than deaths +5.4
1941	18,130	27 more births than deaths +1.5
1942	17,390	78 more births than deaths +4.5
1943	16,400	78 more births than deaths +4.8
1944	16,020	103 more births than deaths +6.4
1945	15,800	84 more births than deaths +5.3
1946	16,370	99 more births than deaths +6.0
1947	16,610	148 more births than deaths +8.9

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1947.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 16,610, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....		319	172	147
Illegitimate	....	....		12	6	6
Totals	....	....	....	331	178	153

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	....					19.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....			20.5
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)	....	....	....	....		22.2

Stillbirths.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....		2	1	1
Illegitimate	....	....		1	1	—
Totals	....	....	....	3	2	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	....	....				8.9
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales						24.0

Deaths.				Total	Males	Females
				183	78	105

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population						11.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....			12.0
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)	....	....	....	....		11.9

The Registrar-General has not supplied a Comparability Factor since 1940, because the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors have been suspended for the present.

The absence of a Comparability Factor precludes a comparison between the former two rates.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil	—
Other maternal causes	 Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	11	6	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	11	6	5

All infants per 1,000 live births	33.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	34.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	41
Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	36

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Number of Deaths during Years 1939—1947.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1939	169	11.9
1940	171	9.9
1941	218	12.0
1942	189	10.9
1943	185	11.2
1944	203	12.7
1945	195	12.3
1946	194	11.9
1947	183	11.0

Deaths at Various Ages During 1947.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	11
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	—
5 years and under 15	—
15 years and under 25	3
25 years and under 35	2
35 years and under 45	12
45 years and under 55	15
55 years and under 65	27
65 years and under 75	43
75 years and under 85	52
85 years and over	18
Total	183

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1939—1947.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Wirral	England and Wales
1939	30.5	50
1940	59.7	55
1941	58.4	59
1942	26.2	49
1943	41.8	49
1944	22.9	46
1945	25.1	46
1946	23.9	43
1947	33.2	41

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 36 in 1947.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below :—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Accidental Death	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	4	—	1	—	3	1	1	1	11

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1	4
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	1	—	1
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	1	1
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	—	4	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
15. Cancer of breast	—	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	7	18
17. Diabetes	1	—	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	8	17	25
19. Heart disease	26	34	60
20. Other diseases of circulatory system....	2	7	9
21. Bronchitis	2	1	3
22. Pneumonia	3	3	6
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1	2
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	2	3
28. Nephritis	1	4	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis....	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	3	—	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	—	3	3
33. Suicide	—	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	11	12	23
TOTALS	78	105	183

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
	Population Estimated Mid-Year	Rate England & Wales		Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
		Number	Rate		Non-Residents Registered in District	Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England &Wales	Number	Rate		Standard Rate for Comparison England & Wales	Rate England &Wales
1939	13,170	291	22.1	15.0	169	52	52	9	30.5	50	11.9	12.0	12.1	+ 122
1940	17,190	263	15.3	14.6	181	82	72	18	59.7	55	9.9	9.3	14.3	+ 92
1941	18,130	245	13.5	14.2	258	113	73	15	58.4	59	12.0		12.9	+ 27
1942	17,390	267	15.4	15.8	204	80	65	7	26.2	49	10.9		11.6	+ 78
1943	16,400	263	16.0	16.5	176	66	75	11	41.8	49	11.2		12.1	+ 78
1944	16,020	306	19.1	17.6	182	49	70	7	22.9	46	12.7		11.6	+ 103
1945	15,800	279	17.7	16.1	181	55	69	7	25.1	46	12.3		11.4	+ 84
1946	16,370	293	17.9	19.1	183	60	71	7	23.9	43	11.9		11.5	+ 99
1947	16,610	331	19.9	20.5	173	53	63	11	33.2	41	11.0		12.0	+ 148

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

A private laboratory is employed for the routine examination of clinical material and for the investigation of disease.

Food and drugs throughout the District are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

The Municipal Laboratories at Birkenhead are employed for the examination of milk and ice cream samples.

Ambulance Facilities.

Since April, 1946, a Joint Ambulance Service with the Hoylake Urban District has been maintained. The service provides for the removal of accident and sick cases by day and night. *Telephone—*Hoylake 2970. The cost of the joint service is shown on page 14.

The authorities at the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, undertake the transport of accident, sick and maternity cases to the Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board are responsible for the removal of infectious cases.

The ambulances of the Merseyside Hospitals Council are available for the service of subscribers in this area.

Nursing in the Home.

This work is undertaken by the following organisations :—

Heswall and District Nursing Association.

Barnston, Thingwall, Woodchurch and District Nursing Association.

Irby District Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are conducted by the Council at monthly intervals, and a Clinic for the treatment of scabies is also a Council undertaking.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

Child Welfare.

	Each Month.	Time.
--	-------------	-------

Methodist School Hall,	Alternate	....	....	2-30 p.m.
Telegraph Road, Heswall	....	Mondays		

Village Hall,	Alternate			
Thingwall Road, Irby	....	Mondays	....	.... 2-30 p.m.

School Clinic.

Methodist School Hall,				
Telegraph Road, Heswall	Every Tuesday	....		2-30 p.m.

Village Hall,				
Thingwall Road, Irby	....	Every Wednesday	....	10-30 a.m.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Out-Patients' Department,				
County General Hospital,				
Clatterbridge	....	....	Every Friday	 9-30 a.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

42, Hamilton Square,	....	Every Tuesday and		
Birkenhead		Friday	....	.... 2-0 p.m.

Venereal Diseases.

Males

Birkenhead General	....	Monday, Wednesday		
Hospital	....	and Friday	....	5-30—7-0 p.m.

Females.

Tuesday	....	....	5-30—7-0 p.m.
Wednesday and			
Friday	....	....	2-0—4-0 p.m.

Hospitals.

Voluntary.

The Voluntary Hospitals in Liverpool and Birkenhead admit patients from this District.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Heswall, accommodates 242 patients. It is the country branch of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and was designed originally for the treatment of orthopaedic cases. The hospital admits patients from this area. It is equipped with a steam disinfector.

The Cleaver Sanatorium belongs to the Corporation of Liverpool, and is used for the accommodation of advanced cases of tuberculosis.

Public.

Isolation Hospital.

The Wirral Urban District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board. The Board's Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge has accommodation for 100 patients. The Hospital has modern cubicle wards and a new nurses' home was constructed in 1937. Infectious patients from this area are treated in the hospital where necessary, and under certain conditions beds may be available for measles and whooping cough cases. At Pensby there is a hospital with 12 beds for convalescent scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board have an arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority for the admission of smallpox patients to the Smallpox Hospital at New Ferry.

General.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge has been extended and modernised during recent years, and now offers comprehensive services for the investigation and treatment of sickness to residents of this District. The Hospital contains 430 beds, including 34 beds in the Maternity Block, and the hospital has a large staff of resident practitioners and visiting consultants.

The County Council maintains a Nursing Home at Oldfield Way, Heswall, having accommodation for 13 maternity cases.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Thurstaston Road, Heswall.

The premises are not satisfactory and arrangements have been made for post mortem examinations to be carried out at the mortuary owned by the Hoylake Urban District Council.

Legislation in Force.

Adopted Acts and Conferred Powers.

1. The Council have all the powers and are subject to all the duties conferred or imposed upon an Urban District Council by the general law (Ministry of Health, 1st August, 1933).
2. The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
3. The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 (parts III and IV as amended).
4. The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.
Part II (streets and buildings) as amended, other than sections 21, 30 and 31.
Part VI (recreation grounds); and section 94 comprised in Part X (miscellaneous provisions).
(Subject to certain conditions mentioned in Ministry of Health Order 79322 (1934).)
5. The Public Health Act, 1925.
Part II (excluding Sections 21, 22, and 24).
Part VI (recreation grounds).
6. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899—1945.
7. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.
The Council have contracted into the Act (vide Minute 733, 4th December, 1933), so that the Act shall apply to all animals designated therein.

Bye-Laws.

The following Bye-Laws are in force in the Urban District :—

1. Nuisances, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 9th January, 1936).
2. Slaughter-houses, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 20th January, 1936).
3. Smoke Abatement, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 9th January, 1936).
4. New Streets and Buildings, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 20th January, 1936).
5. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures, made 6th July, 1936 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 28th August, 1936).
6. Buildings, made 5th June, 1939 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 26th July, 1939).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. The main sources of supply are deep wells at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and the water is controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those examined during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters have a plumbo-solvent action. Examples of representative analyses are given on pages 21, 22 and 23, and the extent of the water softening which is carried out by the West Cheshire Water Board is shown on page 20.

Public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking domestic, trade and agricultural purposes. Every dwelling house of a permanent type has a separate piped supply of public mains water, and standpipes are only used in connection with those erections constructed of short-lived materials which were normally used for seasonal occupation, but as a result of the acute housing shortage are now occupied on a permanent basis.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep at the hospital.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (*a*) direct to the house; (*b*) by means of standpipes are given below :—

				Dwelling Houses.	Population.
(a)	House direct	....	....	4,909	16,465
(b)	Standpipes	....	....	44	145

Consumption.

Details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was approximately 30 gallons per head per day.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the Dee.

Rapid and extensive building development in the District during the years immediately before the outbreak of war resulted in circum-

stances which caused surcharging of the sewers during heavy rainfall. Building operations undertaken since the cessation of hostilities tend to accentuate the trouble. The problem of providing sewers capable of coping with the new demands of the District is continuing to receive the attention of the Council. Consulting Engineers are engaged in the preparation of a scheme for re-sewering where necessary and application has been made to the Ministry of Health for sanction of £80,760 capital expenditure to enable work to be commenced immediately upon the Fender Valley Sewer. The local public enquiry in connection with the raising of the necessary loan has been held and the decision of the Ministry is now awaited.

Rivers and Streams.

Two cases of minor pollution were dealt with and following informal action two water courses were cleaned out and deepened to prevent flooding of adjoining land.

Closet Accommodation.

The following premises are provided with pail closets :—

Permanent Dwellings....	....	....	30
Temporary Structures	....	....	55

Steps are being taken to improve sanitary accommodation, and during the year six pail closets were converted to water closets.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

There is a weekly collection of domestic refuse and a twice weekly collection of refuse from certain business premises.

The district is divided into two collection areas, which are planned in accordance with the continuous system of refuse collection. Two Shelvoke & Drewry 10 cubic yard freighters are used and after more than eleven years of exacting work these vehicles are due for replacement. It is anticipated that the new vehicles will be available during the ensuing year.

There is a comprehensive checking and timing system in operation to ensure maximum efficiency with lowest possible cost. The service worked smoothly, collections were kept to schedule and very few complaints were received.

Refuse Disposal.

All of the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. In addition to complying with the technique recommended by the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made for the uncovered faces of the tip to be treated with insecticide.

The tip at the rear of the Glegg Arms Hotel was completed and tipping commenced in the disused clay pit off Chester Road, Gayton. This tip will have a life of approximately one year, and it is essential that the proposed tipping site in the vicinity of Whitehouse Lane be acquired as soon as practicable.

Salvage.

With the exception of kitchen waste there has been an appreciable increase in the weights of all materials salvaged. The reduction in the weight of kitchen waste collected might be attributed to public dislike of communal bins. Some Councils have provided each household with a pail for kitchen waste and the contents are collected daily. Where this has been done public response is excellent, but such a scheme would be uneconomic in this district where there is a comparatively long carry from the houses to the loading point.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and sold with a net profit of £793 :—

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.		£
Paper	....	....	....	....	112	19	3	....	721
Reclaimed Boxes	....	....	....	....	1	14	1	....	24
Textiles	....	....	....	....	12	5	0	....	245
Metals	....	....	....	....	24	6	0	....	37
Bottles and Jars	....	....	....	....	8	1	0	....	86
Kitchen Waste	....	....	....	....	36	16	0	....	37
Bones	....	....	....	....	—	8	1	....	2
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	1	18	0	....	15
Total					198	8	1	....	£1167

The salvage collections of local authorities now constitute an important part of our national economy. It is interesting to record that since 1939, when this Council intensified salvage recovery, the following materials have been returned to industry :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	1032	16	2
Textiles	96	9	3
Metals	328	0	0
Boncs	60	0	1
Rubber	26	18	0
Bottles and Jars	84	11	1
Kitchen Waste	798	10	2
Boots and Shoes	4	3	1
Total	2431	9	2

After paying labour costs and for the purchase of equipment and vehicles, there was a net profit of £5,140, which has been passed to the local rate fund.

Statistics.

Weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day	....	10.87 cwts.
Average weight per bin over the whole year	....	25.95 lbs.
Rate in £—Collection	....	5.847d.
Disposal	....	1.823d.

		7.670d.
<i>Less</i> net income from salvage	....	1.346d.
		6.324d.

Expenditure per bin collected	....	3.838d.
<i>Less</i> net income from salvage	....	0.674d.
Net expenditure per bin collected	....	3.164d.

Expenditure per ton:—

Collection	....	21/0d.
Disposal	....	6/7d.
		27/7d.
<i>Less</i> net income from salvage	....	4/10d.
		22/9d.

Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum:—

Collection	....	....	....	....	....	£208.47
Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	£65.01
						£273.48
<i>Less</i> net income from salvage	....	....	....	....	....	£48.00
						£225.48

Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum:—

Collection	....	....	....	....	....	£646.64
Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	£201.65
						£848.29
<i>Less</i> net income from salvage	....	....	....	....	....	£148.89
						£699.40

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
	Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses :						
Inspected on Com- plaints 298	14	90	97	77	1	—
Re-inspected 2,026	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re infectious diseases 72	—	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Act on com- plaints 128	—	1	1	—	—	—
House to house In- spection 55	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding 13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, vans and sheds 155	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factory & workshop						
Acts :—			14	8		
Bakehouses 31	—	1	—	2	—	—
Laundries 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workplaces 23	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds 56	—	8	8	—	—	—
Dairies and milkshops.... 45	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milk samples 127	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food preparing premises 63	—	—	4	—	—	—
Fried fish and chips shop 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice cream premises 17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of animals 54	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stables 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schools 11	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc. 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Street gullies 2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Back passages 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains inspected 377	—	15	30	2	—	—
Excavations made 10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke tested 24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water tested 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
New buildings.... 91	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks, cesspools, etc. 104	—	—	8	7	—	—
Refuse collection 429	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse disposal 280	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations 9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats and Mice des- truction Act 7,125	—	32	32	—	—	—
Smoke observations 14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Advisory visits to works 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Act inspections.... 2	—	—	15	—	—	—
Pools, ditches, etc 21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pail closets —	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ashbins 196	11	74	197	11	—	—
Miscellaneous 45	—	—	—	1	—	—
Notices outstanding from 1946 —	9	261	—	—	—	—
Totals 11,946	34	482	407	109	1	—

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING 1947.

Houses:—

Roofs Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	40
Chimney Stacks Pointed or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Rain Water Gutters Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Down Spouts Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Down Spouts disconnected from Drains	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Walls Pointed or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	19
Ventilation Improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Windows Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	31
New Sash Cords Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	41
Window Fasteners Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	13
Windows made to open	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Firegrates Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Ovens Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Plastering to Firegrates Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Floors Relaid or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	40
Skirting Boards Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Wall Plaster Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	47
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	30
Walls Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Ceilings Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Doors Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Door Fasteners Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	13
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Sink Waste Pipes Trapped	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Washing Boilers Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
" " New Pans Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
" " Flues Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Dampness Remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	54
Yard Surfaces Relaid or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Yard Surfaces—proper means of Drainage Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Sufficient Water Supply Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	4

Drainage:—

New Drains Constructed	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Drains Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Inspection Chambers Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Drains under Houses Abolished	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Drains Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	63

Water Closets:—

Roofs Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Walls Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
New Basins Fixed	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Connections Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Cisterns Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Provided with a sufficient supply of Water	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Seats Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

Ashbins:—

[illegible]

Cesspools, Septic Tanks:—

[illegible]

Dairies and Milk Shops:—

Limewashed and Cleansed						3
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Cowsheds:—

Limewashed and Cleansed						8
-------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	---

Infestations Eliminated:—

Ants 5

Miscellaneous (not included above)					19
--	------	------	------	------	----

Total		836
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Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	37	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	30	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—
Total	73	67	2	—

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences(S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	8	—	—	—

Shops and Offices.

Inspection of 65 premises were made during the year and 15 informal notices were complied with.

Camping Sites.

Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures in the District for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Ward	Vans, Sheds, etc.		Tents (April to September)
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston	5	2	—
Gayton	—	—	—
Heswall	28	37	—
Irby	11	15	1
Pensby	—	—	—
Thurstaston	2	—	—
Totals	46	54	1

Smoke Abatement.

This aspect of public health work continues to receive attention and, in addition to fourteen half-hour observations of factory chimneys, advisory visits were made to works to ensure that all reasonable steps were being taken to promote efficient combustion.

Although the use of low grade fuel resulted in an increase in the amount of smoke, there was no infringement of the Byelaw controlling the emission of black smoke.

At one dairy the vertical coal fired boiler was converted to gas burning with a consequent reduction in atmospheric pollution.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public baths in the District. There is a private swimming bath at a boys' camp, and this has modern equipment for filtration and chlorination of the water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses	Nil
(b) Other Houses	Nil

Number of Houses disinfested :—

(a) Council Houses	Nil
(b) Other Houses	Nil

Schools.

All the permanent schools have main water supply and are provided with lavatory basins and satisfactory sanitary conveniences. Good equipment is provided, but is not always used to the greatest advantage.

A temporary school having unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation has been closed and the scholars transferred to pre-fabricated classrooms erected on land adjoining the Pensby Primary School.

There are serious structural defects in the primary school at Barnston, and arrangements are being made for the instruction of the children to be continued in other premises whilst extensive repairs are in progress.

Housing.

There was some improvement in the availability of labour for building repairs and maintenance, but various materials continued in short supply. Progressive increases in the cost of labour and materials made many property owners reluctant to undertake repairs, and consequently many complaints of housing defects were dealt with by the Health Department.

Ministry of Works schemes for the conservation of labour and materials continue to occupy the attention of the Department.

Two dwellings which are the subject of confirmed Clearance Orders have been occupied in accordance with the provisions of the Defence (General) Regulations.

As a result of energetic action by the Council in the provision of new houses, it has been possible to relieve the most serious cases of overcrowding. The next step is to provide a separate house for each family, but in view of the reduction in the building programme occasioned by the economic crisis several years must pass before this objective can be achieved.

New Accommodation.

The progress in the building of new houses during 1947 is shown in the following table :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1947 :—			
(a) Permanent	74	64	138
(b) Temporary	40	—	40
Number of totally destroyed war damaged houses erected in 1947....	—	1	1
Number of flats provided in 1947	—	2	2
Totals	114	67	181

The Council proposes eventually to erect 500 houses. Although the majority of tenants occupy the new houses in a manner reflecting the greatest credit upon themselves, there have been instances of misuse and wanton damage. The Council is adopting a firm attitude towards these unsatisfactory tenants, who must either use these houses in a reasonable manner or find other accommodation.

The progress made since the building programme commenced is shown below :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :—			
(a) Permanent	74	139	213
(b) *Temporary prefabricated	40	—	40
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945	—	4	4
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945	6	2	8
Totals	120	145	265

* Temporary prefabricated houses were allocated in April, 1945.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 25 registered cowkeepers, of whom 19 are accredited producers.

During the year two shippens and one dairy were reconstructed.

Milk samples are taken regularly and systematically and every effort is made to examine all sources of supply four times during each year.

The liaison between this and neighbouring District Councils has been maintained and any adverse reports on samples of milk received immediate and satisfactory attention.

Milk Sampling.

Designation	Number Sampled	B. Coli		Methy- lene Blue		Phos- phatase		Tubercle Bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative
Pasteurised	38	—	—	33	5	31	7	—	—
Accredited	59	30	29	54	5	—	—	2	57
Tuberculin Tested	10	4	6	10	—	—	—	—	10
Ungraded	20	13	7	19	1	—	—	—	20
Totals	127	47	42	116	11	31	7	2	87

The following Licences have been granted under the Order during the year :—

“Accredited.”

Dealers Bottling Licence	2
-------------------------------	---

“Pasteurised.”

Dealers Bottling Licence	6
-------------------------------	---

Supplementary Retailing Licence	4
--------------------------------------	---

“Tuberculin Tested.”

Dealers Bottling Licence	1
-------------------------------	---

Dealers Retailing Licence	2
--------------------------------	---

Supplementary Retailing Licence	1
--------------------------------------	---

Meat and Other Foods.

All premises where food is prepared or offered for sale were the subject of frequent inspections. On 40 occasions articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered.

Ice Cream.

Lack of recording thermometers made it impossible to ensure compliance with all of the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, but there was an apparent effort by manufacturers and retailers to improve the methods of preparation, storage and handling. Arrangements have been made for the systematic sampling of ice cream for biological examination during the coming year.

There are nine premises registered for the manufacture and fourteen for the sale of ice cream.

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Wirral Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

Name of Sample	Number Taken	Number not up to Standard
Butter	2	—
Bacon	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cooking Fat	2	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Fish Cake	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Gelatine, powdered	1	—
Jam, Melon	1	—
Milk	26	9
Margarine	2	—
Peppermint, Oil of	1	—
Peaches, dried	1	—
Sweets	2	—
Sugar	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
Totals	45	9

**Particulars of Non-Standard Samples during the Year
ended 31st December, 1947.**

Number	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids.	Genuine, but abnormal. No action
2	Milk	7.0% deficient in non-fatty solids	Genuine, but abnormal. No action
3	Milk	4.7% deficient in non-fatty solids	Genuine, but abnormal. No action.
4	Milk	1.2% deficient in non-fatty solids	Genuine, but abnormal. No action
5	Milk	13.0% of extraneous water	These two samples were taken informally from two next door neighbours owing to suspicion as to quality of milk supplied. See Nos. 7, 8 and 9
6	Milk	8.2% of extraneous water	
7	Milk	11.5% of extraneous water	These were formal samples taken from the retailer as a result of the analysis of Nos. 5 and 6 above. A sample was taken from each of two churns and one from bottled milk. Retailer was prosecuted and fined £21 1s. 0d. in each of the three cases. Total penalty £63 3s. 0d.
8	Milk	13.8% of extraneous water	
9	Milk	45.8% of extraneous water	

Shellfish.

There is no record of any laying being worked in the District.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The arrangement for the routine examination and necessary treatment of non-agricultural properties continues to work efficiently. A whole-time rat catcher is employed and during the year 193 instances of infestation were dealt with satisfactorily.

Once again test baiting of sewer manholes gave a negative result, and the Ministry of Food relieved the Council of the responsibility for further treatment.

On and after the 1st April, 1948, the powers of the County Council under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, will be delegated to the District Council.

Scabies.

No cases were treated at the Council's Cleansing Centre during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

381 cases of notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis were recorded during the year, and these included 235 cases of measles and 92 cases of whooping cough.

Four cases of cerebro spinal fever were reported. Three of these were treated at home and one was treated in hospital. All made a complete recovery.

One case of typhoid was notified, and this patient, after treatment in hospital, also recovered. None of the three cases of diphtheria which were notified had received immunisation treatment.

Six cases of poliomyelitis occurred, one of which was fatal. Of the others two have made a complete recovery, two are expected to do so eventually, and in the case of the other full recovery seems unlikely, though the disability which will result will not be serious.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1947.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	21	—	2	6	8	3	1	1	—	—	11	—
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	—
Pneumonia	18	1	2	1	3	—	1	2	7	1	2	6
Measles	235	6	33	50	111	19	7	6	3	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	92	10	13	25	38	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Typhoid	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio myelitis	6	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	6	1
TOTALS	381	17	52	82	161	28	14	15	11	1	26	7

Infectious Disease.

The figures in the preceding table include the following cases of infectious diseases which occurred at the following institutions in the district :—The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Heswall and St. Fillan's Rest Home.

Age	Disease			Totals
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	
Under 1	—	—	—	—
1—3	1	1	—	2
3—5	3	—	1	4
5—10	—	2	—	2
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	3	1	8

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Wirral
Notifications:—	Rates	per 1,000 C	ivilian Population	tion :—	
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.06
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.24
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.26
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	5.54
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.18
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	14.15
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	1.08
Notifications:—	Rates	per 1,000 T	otal Births (L	ive and Still) :—	
Puerperal Fever	} 7.16	8.99	6.27 {	1.21	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia				*6.94	

* Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held during 1947			11
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation during 1947— Immunised by Wirral U.D.C. Immunised privately	Age at date of final injection		Total
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	
	128 119	13 12	141 131
Totals	247	25	272
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection during 1947.	8		

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/47 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5—9 1938—1942	10—14 1933—1937	Total under 15
Number Immunised	—	157	209	295	259	1,152	903	2,975
Estimated mid-year population 1947	1,360					2,350		3,710
Percentage immunised to child population	67.8%					87.5%		80.2%

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1947 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

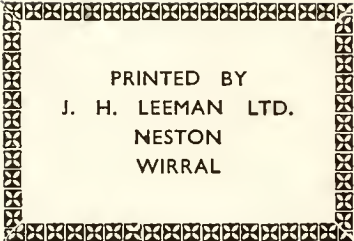
New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	—	1	2	2	1	—	—

Note.—Of the total deaths from tuberculosis 50% had not been notified.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1947.	35	29	64	20	13	33	97
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1947.	8	—	8	1	2	3	11
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	2	1	3	1	—	1	4
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	15	22	37	15	9	24	61
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1947.	30	8	38	7	6	13	51



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